

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
January 12, 2007**

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Moment of Reflection
The Regular meeting of the Ventura County Board of Education, Agenda No. 07-01, was called to order by Mr. Marty Bates, President, at 8:20 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2007, in the Conejo Room of the Administrative Services Center, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Bates and followed by a moment of reflection.

2. Roll Call
Trustees Present:
Marty Bates, Area 2
Chris Valenzano, Area 3
Ron Matthews, Area 5
Mary Louise Peterson, Area 1 – *Absent*
Dean Kunicki, Area 4 – *Absent*

VCOE Personnel Present:
Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and Ex-Officio
Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board
Nancy Manley, Executive Assistant to Dr. Weis
Sandra Shackelford, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

3. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Valenzano moved the agenda be approved. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

Mr. Bates reported that he moved the Agenda Item pertaining to the Superintendent's Salary, which had been tabled to this meeting, to the January 22, 2007 meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. HEARINGS

None.

D. CLOSED SESSION

None.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 27, 2006.
Mr. Valenzano moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 27, 2006 be approved. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was included in the Board packet:

1. Agenda from Vista Real Charter High School, Inc., Governing Board Meeting, November 29, 2006, and letter announcing January 24, 2007 Board meeting. *(November 29, 2006 Explanatory Materials and Minutes are available for review in the Superintendent's Conference Room).*
2. Information from CSBA regarding current educational opportunities and Upcoming Board Presidents' Workshop and Brown Act Training.
3. VCSBA Newsletter and Invitation to the VCSBA Dinner meeting, January 30, 2007; and Brown Act Training on January 27, 2007.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

1. Dr. Weis asked which Board members planned to attend the VCSBA Dinner Meeting on January 30, 2007, or the Brown Act Training on January 27, 2007. Mr. Bates and Mr. Matthews will attend both; Mr. Valenzano will attend the VCSBA Dinner meeting. The Office will contact Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Kunicki.
2. Mr. Bates reported that Mr. Kunicki was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Weis reported on the following items relative to the activities of the Office:

1. Superintendent's Activities for January – February 2007.
2. Revised Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2007-08 (reflects 2007 Calendar of VCBE Meetings adopted 12/11/06)
3. Welcome to ESI (Explanation of Express Scripts prescription benefits)
4. Response from staff regarding Mr. Kunicki's question on transportation of Special Education students.

5. Final version of December 12, 2006 letter to Ventura County Committee on School District Organization regarding request for voting abstention by Janet Lindgren on Camarillo Unification Proposal.
6. Notification of \$100 Gateway scholarship donation made in Dr. Weis' name by the Ventura County Partnership for Safe Families and Communities.
7. E-mail from Alan Murray, Principal, Phoenix School.
8. Governor Unveils Career Technical Education Initiative. The Governor has put an additional \$52 million into his proposed 2007-08 budget.
9. Newspaper Articles relative to activities of the Office.

Dr. Weis noted that Scott Himmelstein has been appointed as the Interim State Secretary of Education. Secretary Himmelstein will be presenting at the upcoming Tri-County Education Coalition meeting in Goleta.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

1. Letter from Assemblymember Audra Strickland announcing the deadline to introduce legislation is January 25, 2007. Mr. Bates reported that he is working to develop legislation which would make ROP funding for Ventura County equal to that of other counties.

J. CONSENT/ACTION

1. Travel Expense Claim
Mr. Valenzano moved the Board approve Consent Item 1, Travel Expense Claim. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None.

L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Approval of Consortium Application for AB172, PreKindergarten and Family Literacy Program
Ms. Shackelford noted that the Legislature has approved AB172 which requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Department of Education to administer prekindergarten and family literacy programs. A collaborative made up of eligible districts, community-based organizations, and the County Office of Education, has been meeting to develop a grant application that would serve eligible students. Funds from the grant must be assigned to programs located in the attendance area of elementary schools in deciles 1-3. Currently, Ventura County has 28 schools that meet these criteria. The majority of grant funds will be passed through to districts or the community-based organizations that will

provide direct classroom programming. The County Office will assist with coordination, monitoring, state reporting, professional development for parents and staff, program evaluation, and accountability. The executive summary was included in the explanatory materials. The application is due January 19, 2007.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board approve the coordination of the application for the Ventura County Consortium for PreKindergarten and Family Literacy Programs, and requested that the final version be brought to the next Board meeting for approval. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

2. Williams Lawsuit Settlement Quarterly Report to County Board of Education
Dr. Weis reported that Education Code 35186 stipulates that the Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints pertaining to Ventura County Office of Education operated schools and programs to the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools on a quarterly basis. The Williams Coordinator for the Ventura County Office of Education presents the quarterly report for October 1, 2006-December 31, 2006, which shows no complaints pertaining to Ventura County Office of Education operated schools and programs filed during this period.

3. Request for Allowance of Attendance because of Emergency Conditions: Form J-13A
Dr. Weis reported that due to the wildfires on December 4, 2006, the Ventura County Office of Education experienced school closures at three of the County Operated Special Education sites. Education Code Section 41422 (for school closures) allows school districts, county offices, and ROPs, to be held harmless from revenue loss that might result from the loss of ADA or instructional time in emergencies. Mr. Matthews moved the Board approve and sign Form J-13A, allowing VCOE to claim attendance credit for the days that the schools were closed. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

Mr. Valenzano requested that the Board be notified of any school closures as soon as the determination was made or as soon thereafter as possible.

4. Adoption of Resolution No. 07-01, Authorizing County Office of Education to Purchase School Supplies as a Cooperative
Dr. Weis reported that Government Code 6500 permits public school agencies in Ventura County to purchase standard school supplies as a cooperative. The adoption of Resolution No. 07-01 is necessary in order to grant the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools or his designee the authority to enter into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to establish rules and regulations and list standard school supplies that would be purchased through such a cooperative. Traditionally, the County Office has made large purchases in order to assist all districts, especially small districts, in getting the best price. Mr. Matthews moved the Board adopt Resolution No. 07-01, authorizing the County Superintendent of Schools or his designee to purchase school supplies as a cooperative. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

5. Approval of Board Budget Consultant Agreement for 2006-07
Dr. Weis reported that staff has prepared an agreement for Board Budget Consultant services, to be provided by Dr. Tom Kimberling, for the 2006-07 fiscal year. The agreement incorporates a maximum amount of \$4,000, per the Board's adopted budget. Mr. Matthews moved the Board approve the contract for Dr. Tom Kimberling, for ongoing budget consultant services for 2006-07. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0.

6. Report on Costs to the Ventura County Office of Education relating to the Actions of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization
Dr. Weis reported that on December 18, 2006, the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization voted to approve the petition for Camarillo Unified School District and designated the area of election to be Pleasant Valley and Somis School Districts. Subsequently, the Oxnard Union High School District took action indicating that they would appeal this decision to the State Board of Education. Dr. Weis noted that the appeal action has not yet been received.

The Ventura County Elections Division has provided a very rough estimate of the cost for a two part ballot measure, i.e. Unification yes or no, as well as electing a new Board contingent upon Unification approval. A stand-alone Special Election would cost approximately \$150,000; a Consolidated Regular Election would cost approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. Dr. Weis recommended the Board budget \$100,000 in anticipation of a 2007-08 election. To date, the County Committee has incurred \$133,516 in expenses.

Dr. Weis also addressed Mr. Bates' question regarding a potential conflict of interest for attorney, Jack Parham. Dr. Weis noted that Mr. Parham is counsel to VCOE and Oxnard Union High School District for personnel matters only. Thomas Griffin, Attorney, represents Oxnard Union High School District in matters relating to school district organization. Dr. Weis indicated that he does not see any potential "conflict of interest."

7. Board Legal Counsel Statement for Services
Dr. Weis noted that the Board Legal Counsel's statement for representation of the Ventura County Board of Education in matters relating to School District Organization was attached for the Board's information and review. Mr. Bates noted that he had received a request from the attorney for Pleasant Valley School District for Terry Filliman's e-mail address. Dr. Weis will review the contract, and draft a letter to Mr. Filliman advising that if he is contacted by outside agencies, he must receive approval to respond if the time is to be billable.

8. Request for Board's Attorney to Create a Resolution or Draft a Letter Pertaining to the Transfer the Duties of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization to the Ventura County Board of Education
On January 6, 2006, the Ventura County Board of Education submitted a letter to the State Board of Education requesting that the duties of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization be reassigned to the County Board. Mr. Valenzano reported that the Board's attorney has stated his concern regarding the fact that the State Board of Education (SBE) has not responded to the Board's letter. The Board's attorney has recommended that the Board send a letter to the State Board of Education, requesting that the SBE take action on the original letter, or state why no action has been taken. The letter should also inform the SBE that it is required by State law to respond within 90 days which it has not done, and that the County Board intends to file a writ.

Mr. Valenzano moved the Board authorize their attorney to draft a letter to be sent to the SBE concerning the original letter to the SBE, including the potential action of the filing of a writ. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, and it carried 3:0. The letter will be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

9. Approval of Letter Regarding Representative to Ventura County Committee on School District Organization
Mr. Bates noted that since the County Committee has taken action on the proposed Unification, he feels the removal of Mr. Sullivan is a mute point and is no longer required. No letter was presented. No action was taken on this item.

M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Dr. Weis reported that the Office has received a \$20,000 planning grant from ARCHES / ENLACE to establish a Regional P-16 Council comprised of key decision makers from local Universities, business representatives, First 5 Commission, PTA, and Boys and Girls Club. The first activity of the P-16 Council will be to attend a Professional Development Symposium in Berkeley.

N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report on Vista Real Charter High School
(Requested by Mr. Kunicki / February 26, 2007).
2. Report on VCOE Preparedness Plan for Pandemic Avian Flu
(Requested by Mr. Kunicki / February 26, 2007).
3. Board's Intent to Hire a Lobbyist
(Requested by Mr. Bates / TBD).
4. Collaboration Efforts with Probation and Mental Health agencies
(Requested by Mrs. Peterson / TBD).

5. Discussion of Report on Purchase Orders and Requisitions (Requested by Mr. Bates / TBD).
6. Approval of Consortium Application for AB172, PreKindergarten and Family Literacy Program (February 26, 2007).

O. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Monday, January 22, 2007
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: **Friday, February 2, 2007**
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: Monday, February 26, 2007
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 5189 Verdugo Way, Conejo Room, Camarillo
Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

BOLD denotes modified schedule

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Approved as Amended by Board Action on 02/26/07.

*Board meetings are recorded by audio tape pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5(b).
Copies of these audio tapes are available by request to this office at (805) 383-1900.*